Proposed SWAMP Monitoring in the San Diego region for FY 2010-11

A. Monitoring of Wadeable Streams
The San Diego Regional Board will participate in the study from the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). The SMC study implements an integrated regional watershed monitoring for wadeable streams that was developed in collaboration with the SMC and SWAMP. Water samples (nutrients, metals, and pyrethroids), physical water quality field parameters, CRAM, water toxicity, and bioassessment (benthic macroinvertebrates, and algae) will be collected from 3 sites based on a randomized design. Sampling for the SMC study started in 2009, and a total of 55 sites will be sampled over five years through the SWAMP R9 allocations. 49 sites were already sampled with previous SWAMP R9 allocations. Data from the study will be stored in the SWAMP database.

B. Watershed Monitoring Coordination
Most of the watersheds in the San Diego region are in need of an integrated and coordinated monitoring program. This project addresses the coordination of watershed monitoring in one selected watershed in the San Diego region. The purpose of the project is to improve monitoring and assessment of the San Diego region waters through improved coordination of watershed monitoring. Such coordination will improve assessment of water bodies in the selected watershed through a cost effective integrated monitoring program. The project will be facilitated through the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and Brock Bernstein. SWAMP R9 allocations from FY 2009/10 funded the watershed monitoring coordination for the San Diego River watershed.

C. Freshwater Wetland Monitoring
Currently the San Diego region lacks information on the conditions of freshwater wetlands in its region. A recent project conducted by Martha Sutula from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) has built an inventory of all freshwater wetlands in the San Diego region. The study showed that depressional wetlands are the most abundant freshwater wetlands in the San Diego region. The study will monitor the conditions of depressional wetlands, and the indicators might include CRAM, plants, water chemistry, water and/or sediment toxicity, algae, and benthic macroinvertebrates. A subset of depressional wetlands will be sampled based on a randomized design. SCCWRP will conduct the study for the San Diego Regional Board.

D. Monitoring for Contaminants of Emerging Concern
This study addresses contaminants of emerging concern in the San Diego region. There is evidence that contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) occur in streams in San Diego County especially near waste water treatment plants, and in rural areas with septic tanks. Currently, no monitoring exists for CECs in the San Diego region. The funding allocated for CEC sampling will continue the pilot study on CECs that was started in 2010 using SWAMP R9 allocations.